

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00163 062316Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /016 W  
-----088991 070230Z /64  
R 062142Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 626  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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DEPT FOR A/SY/OPS/FO AND ARA/MGT FROM RSO  
PANAMA FOR OIC/RTC

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: PERSONAL SECURITY - VENEZUELA

1. ALTHOUGH THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SEASON IN VENEZUELA  
USUALLY BRINGS INCREASED STREET CRIMES AND RESIDENTIAL BREAK-INS,  
SUCH OCCURRENCES WERE MUCH MORE NOTICEABLE DURING THE PAST  
HOLIDAYS AND ACCORDING TO THE JUDICIAL POLICE THE CRIME RATE IS  
ANTICIPATED TO REMAIN HIGH DURING ELECTION YEAR 1978. ALTHOUGHT  
THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN RELATIVELY FORTUNATE,  
WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL SERIOUS INCIDENTS INVOLVING VIOLENCE.

2. INCIDENTS INVOLVING VIOLENCE:

A. IN DECEMBER 1977 A SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICER AND HIS WIFE  
RETURNED TO THEIR RESIDENCE ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND DISCOVERED  
TWO MALE INTRUDERS WHO WERE IN THE PROCESS OF LOOTING THE RESIDENCE.  
THE INTRUDERS ESCAPED AFTER THREATENING THE OFFICER AND WIFE AT  
KNIFE POINT. THERE WERE NO INJURIES.

B. ON THE EVENING OF JAN. 1, 1978, AN EMBASSY AMERICAN  
SECRETARY WAS SEVERLY BEATEN AND ROBBED AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE  
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OF HER APARTMENT BUILDING. SHE DESCRIBED HER ASSAILANTS AS TWO  
YOUNG MALES. JUDICIAL POLICY STATE THIS WAS THIRD SIMILAR CASE  
RECENTLY IN SAME VICINITY. UNFORTUNATELY THIS SECRETARY'S VOLKS-  
WAGON WAS STOLEN FROM HER APARTMENT GARAGE (AND NEVER RECOVERED)  
IN EARLY 1977.

C. IN EARLY DECEMBER 1977 A TDY COMMERCE DEPT EMPLOYEE WAS

ATTACKED DURING THE EARLY EVENING APPROX THREE BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY. THE LONE MALE ASSAILANT ATTEMPTED TO STAB THE EMPLOYEE WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SCREWDRIVER. EMPLOYEE RECEIVED STICHES FOR A HEAD WOUND. ASSAILANT WAS NOT APPREHENDED.

D. ALTHOUGH THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT INVOLVED A NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN, IT IS DEEMED SIGNIFICANT IN THE THE VICTIM RESIDES IN AN AREA OF THE CITY HEAVILY POPULATED BY EMBASSY FAMILIES: ON THE EVENING OF JAN. 4, THE AMERICAN WAS RETURNING TO HIS APT BUILDING WHEN THREE MALES ATTACKED AND ROBBED HIM. AMERICAN WAS TREATED FOR MULTIPLE BRUISES.

### 3. NON-VIOLENT INCIDENTS:

A. DURING THE CHIRSTMAS WEEK-END, THE GUARD AT THE DCM RESIDENCE FIRED A SHOT AT WHOM HE LATER DESCRIBED WAS A "THIEF" WHO FLED ON A MOTORCYCLE WITH A SECOND PERSON.

B. ON THE EVENING OF JAN 4 AN EMBASSY TEENAGE DEPENDENT WAS ACCOSTED AND ROBBED WHILE RETURNING TO HIS RESIDENCE. NO INJURIES.

C. DURING 1977 THERE WERE ELEVEN CASES OF FORCED ENTRY AND ROBBERY AT RESIDENCES OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN. THERE WAS ONE ATTEMPTED ENTRY.

D. THERE 9 PURSE SNATCHING INCIDENTS IN 1977.  
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### 4. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE:

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE RESPONDS TO CRIMES IN PROGRESS AND JUDICIAL POLICE TO THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIMES COMMITTED AFTER THE FACT. RESPONSE TIME VARIES FROM ONE TO FIVE HOURS. THE POLICE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE EXISTING THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL, HOWEVER, WITH THEIR DRASTIC MANPOWER PROBLEMS AND INCREASED INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO.

### 5. POST ACTIONS:

A. MARK III MACE WAS REQUESTED FROM SY AND WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THE SHIPMENT WILL ARRIVE VIA MAC CHANNELS ON JAN 9. FOLLOWING APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION UNITS WILL BE ISSUED TO PERSONNEL SO DESIRING.

B. NEW POST SECURITY BOOKLET WAS ISSUED TO ALL PERSONNEL IN DEC. APPROPRIATE SECTIONS OF BOOKLET WERE USED AS AN ADDITIONAL TRAINING AID FOR SPECIAL SECURITY PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING WIVES AND TEEN-AGE DEPEDENTS) IN DECEMBER, DURING WHICH FILM "EXECUTIVE DECISION"

WAS SHOWN.

C. A TRIAL ATTEMPT HAS BEEN INITIATED IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING HOUSING TWO EMBASSY FAMILIES, TO GATHER TOGETHER THE SUPPORT OF ALL OCCUPANTS IN THE HIRING OF GUARDS. FEW BUILDING IN CARACAS HAVE A GUARD SERVICE.

D. MOST OF THE REQUESTED SIXTEEN ALARMS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN RESIDENCES.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FROM RTC PANAMA:

A. THIRTY ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL/APT ALARM SYSTEMS, EITHER CONRAC OR EICO. CONRAC IS PREFERRED IF AVAILABLE.  
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B. 100 POCKET SIZE AEROSOL CAN NOISE MAKERS.  
VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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